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**EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION**

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⑤① Int. Cl.<sup>4</sup>: **A 61 F 13/10, A 61 B 17/54**

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**Bulletin 85/45**

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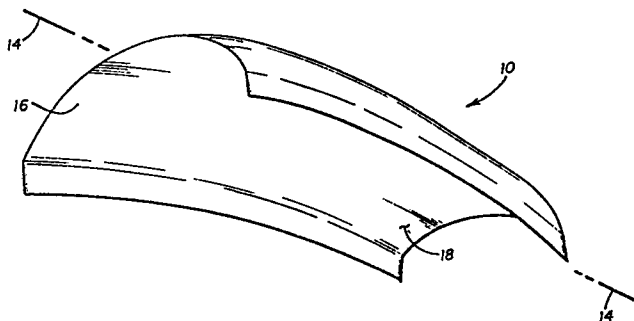
⑧④ Designated Contracting States: **AT BE CH DE FR GB IT LI NL SE**

⑧⑧ Date of deferred publication of search report: **01.10.86 Bulletin 86/40**

⑦④ Representative: **Coxon, Philip et al, Eric Potter & Clarkson 14 Oxford Street, Nottingham NG1 5BP (GB)**

⑤④ **Temporary cover to foster cosmetically pleasing healing of nail bed tissue.**

⑤⑦ The cover has the nature of a splint and/or mould which is adapted for temporary use on the injured digit of a person's hand or foot in order to foster beneficial healing after a nail plate has been removed. The cover or splint comprises a generally elongated sheet (12) of thin (i.e., 0.020 inch (0.5 mm)) polypropylene or the like, which is inert to body fluids. It has a generally compound curvature so that it approximates the natural shape of a human nail plate, and has on its lower surface a smooth, concave shape which is adapted for contacting the healing nail bed. The sheet has a proximal end (18) that is approximately perpendicular to the sides of said sheet, and the sheet has "square" corners which fit within the eponychial fold of the person's digit—for the purpose of preserving the fold and maintaining its size. The split also has a structure (20) depending from the two sides of the sheet for engaging the tissue of the person's nail bed; this structure (20) holds the tissue and inhibits it from contracting significantly during healing of the nail bed. The healing nail bed is restricted to taking on the smooth shape of the juxtaposed sheet as it heals, and a healed nail bed will have a size that tends to be almost as large as its pre-injured size.





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**PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT**  
which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention  
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proceedings, as the European search report

0160500

Application number

EP 85 30 2843

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A,D	EP-A- 0 099 635 (E.O. OGUNRO)  * Page 4, lines 4-12; figures *  ---	1	A 61 F 13/10 A 61 B 17/54
A	FR-A- 1 424 886 (M. ALVAREZ)  * Figure *  ---	1	
A	US-A- 3 277 900 (M.M. LAPPE)  * Column 3, lines 8-10; figures *  ---	1	
A	DE-C- 398 072 (M. STAHRER)  * Figures *  -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
			A 61 F A 61 B A 45 D
<b>INCOMPLETE SEARCH</b>			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the provisions of the European Patent Convention to such an extent that it is not possible to carry out a meaningful search into the state of the art on the basis of some of the claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely: 1-7  Claims searched incompletely:  Claims not searched: 8,9  Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>Method for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy (see art, 52(4) of the European Patent Convention).</p>			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 15-07-1986	Examiner GLAS
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			